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ADDITIONAL PROCESSED FOOD PILOT PROGRAM

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Food Distribution office staff is working with some of the larger school districts on a processing pilot program to provide quality processed items at a reasonable price using USDA Food dollars to purchase the bulk products.

During the 2009-10 school year, the Food Distribution office staff used the entitlement from schools participating in the pilot program to purchase bulk peanut butter. It was shipped to Smucker's to be processed into Uncrustable sandwiches that the school districts will order. The districts are placing their orders with their vendors, either FSA or Sysco. The districts will be billed by the vendor for the product they receive.

Because the USDA deadline is earlier for the 2010-11 orders, the OPI Food Distribution has added Processing as a new Food Group to the USDA Food order. This section will be used for ordering additional processed items through your vendor and will be **billed and shipped directly to your school.**

Orders for processed items must be placed by **pounds**. To place an order for a processed item use the End Product Data Schedules (EPDS) found at: www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/foodDistNEW.html, under Commodity Information. To calculate the number of pounds of USDA commodity product needed, see the example below. During the 2010-11 school year, you will order the finished product through your vendor.

Example: Charbroiled Beef Patties (S12630SP)
Commodity Inventory Drawdown by case - 40.74 pounds
Servings per case - 185
If you need 100 servings per lunch, and you want to serve the Charbroiled Beef Patties 8 times during the school year, you would need 800 servings or 5 cases.

100 servings X 8 = 800 servings for the school year
800 divided by 185 = 4.32 cases (round up or down)
5 cases X 40.74 pounds = 203.70 pounds (this is the amount you would enter on your USDA order under processing)

The OPI Food Distribution office staff will continue to process the same amount of Charbroiled Beef Patties, Breaded Beef Steaks and Chicken Patty Tenders as in the past. To order those items, order by cases in the MEAT food group. The OPI Food Distribution will use the fair share method for distributing them. A fair share spreadsheet is available on the Food Distribution Web site listed above.

Contact Food Distribution at (406) 444-4415 with questions.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.